

new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 18-21 would be allowable if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is overcome. Because the rejection is overcome for the reasons described below, claims 18-21 are in condition for allowance.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

**I. Rejection under §112**

The Office Action rejects claims 4-6 and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the phrase "film-like hot melt adhesive" is unclear and confusing. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants cancel claims 4-6 thus rendering moot this aspect of the rejection. Furthermore, although Applicants do not necessarily agree that claims 18-21 are indefinite, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants amend claims 18-21 as suggested in the Office Action. Amended claims 18-21 now recite "a film of hot melt adhesive." Claims 18-21 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

**II. Rejections under §103**

The Office Action rejects claims 4-6 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Applicants cancel claims 4-6 and 12-17, thus rendering moot this rejection.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 24, 2003

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## APPENDIX

## Changes to Claims:

Claims 4-6 and 12-17 are canceled.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim(s):

18.     (Amended) A method for manufacturing a formed headliner for a vehicle, comprising:

          laminating a hot melt adhesive in a pattern on a back of a top cover member comprising a top cover and a polyurethane foam, the top cover being made of tricot and laminated on a front of the polyurethane foam;

          laminating a film-like of hot melt adhesive on a front of a base member comprising a polyamide film, a polypropylene film, a base material, and a non-woven fabric, the base material including thermoplastic resin made of fiber and polypropylene;

          bonding the top cover member having the laminated hot melt adhesive in the pattern to the base member having the laminated film-like of hot melt adhesive; and

          discharging air between the top cover member having the laminated hot melt adhesive in the pattern and the base member having the laminated film-like of hot melt adhesive through the hot melt adhesive in the pattern, the polyurethane foam, and the top cover member.

19.     (Amended) The method for manufacturing the formed headliner for a vehicle as claimed in claim 18, wherein the bonding is performed by bonding the surface of the hot melt adhesive in the pattern to the film-like of hot melt adhesive.

20.     (Amended) The method for manufacturing the formed headliner for a vehicle as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:

          melting the film-like of hot melt adhesive, and softening the base member by heating the base member; and

melting the hot melt adhesive in the pattern by heat of the base member.

21. (Amended) The method for manufacturing the formed headliner for a vehicle as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:

preparing the film-like of hot melt adhesive with a film thickness in a range of 50 to 75 micrometers.